GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4763
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2016
Demand for Work under MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in demand for work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) especially during the drought years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this steep rise in demand has forced the Government to impose an informal moratorium on work under MGNREGS through off the record instructions to States;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry is proposed to be initiated on such instructions which is against the Act and if not, the reasons for sudden and sharp fall in work in the months of August and September;

(d) whether the States are spending over and above the cap put by the Union Government on labour budget is a main reason for huge dues in wages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in clearing wage dues to the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The State/UT-wise details of households provided employment by job card holders under MGNREGA during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are given in Annexure.

(b)&(c): No, Madam. The demand for work itself is influenced by various factors such as rainfall pattern, availability of alternative and remunerative employment opportunities outside MGNREGA and prevailing unskilled wage rates. Government remains actively engaged with State Governments in establishing systems that ensure provision of work as per demand.

(d)&(e): MGNREGA is a demand driven programmes hence no State/UT- wise allocation of fund is made. The Central funds are released to the States/UTs for the implementation of programme including payment of wages on the basis of agreed to Labour Budgets and taking into consideration the performance and the pace of utilization of available funds. The fund release to States/ UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to make funds available as per actual basis.

Cases of delay in payment of wages in States/UTs have been reported in the Ministry due to following reasons: -

â€¢ Implementation issues like delay in measurement, inadequate staff, poor spread of banking infrastructure, etc.

â€¢ Internet connectivity for maintaining the programme database (MGNREGA-soft)